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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/065,942	12/02/2002	Ken Scott Fisher		7434

33036 7590 05/23/2003
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EXAMINER

PHAN, THANH S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2841

DATE MAILED: 05/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/065,942

Applicant(s)

FISHER ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh S Phan

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 March 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 30 and 31 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 December 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1-29 in Paper No. 3 is acknowledged.

This application contains claims 31-31 drawn to an invention nonelected without traverse in Paper No. 3. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.

Drawings

New corrected drawings are required in this application because the drawings are not sufficient in illustrating the claimed subject matters. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

As best understood by the examiner;

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 6-14, 16-20, and 22-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant admitted prior art; AAPA hereinafter; in view of Ko et al. [6,231,361].

AAPA disclose an external computer device with a standard interface [figure 1] comprising; a housing [120]; a standardized connector [110] for connecting to a computer; and a cover [125] has a protective position and an engaged position; such that when said cover is in said protective position, said connector is covered by said cover, and when said cover is in said engaged position said connector is exposed from said cover.

AAPA disclose the claimed invention except for: a spring-loaded/slidable/retractable cover/sleeve integral with said housing.

Ko et al. disclose a shielded electrical connector apparatus comprises a spring-loaded/slidable/retractable cover/sleeve integral with said housing [figure 3].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use Ko et al.'s spring-loaded cover design with AAPA for the purpose of a stronger connection and enhances safety.

Regarding claims 2, 14, 20, 26, and 29, AAPA further disclose wherein the standardized connector comprises a universal serial bus [page 7, line 10].

Regarding claims 4, 6, 10-12, 16-18, 22-24, and 27-28, AAPA further disclose wherein the external computer device is one of the claimed electrical device [page 7, lines 10].

Claims 5, 15, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA and KO et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Rifkin et al. [3,760,486].

AAPA and Ko et al. disclose the claimed invention except for: the external computer device further comprising a front barrier protector.

Rifkin et al. Disclose extraction/retraction tool case for service module comprising a front barrier protector [5].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use Rifkin et al.'s front cover design with AAPA and Ko et al. for the purpose of protecting the connector.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kolbet et al. [6,308,215] ; Bailey [5,806,189] ; Gringer [5,813,121] ; Rumble [4,626,052] ; Chen [6,456,500] ; Matsumiya et al. [6,480,390]; Kurosaki [5,125,505]; J. H. Falconer [3,025,486].

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh S Phan whose telephone number is 703-305-0069. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David S Martin can be reached on 703-308-3121. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7721 for regular communications and 703-308-7722 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

tsp
May 17, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. L. Martin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**DAVID MARTIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800**